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THE ANNUAL REPORT

For the year 1939 of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Harleston. November 1940.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Twenty-sixth Annual Report on your Sanitary District.

In accordance with the instructions from the Ministry of Health this is an interim Report pending the issue of a final Report later.

The area of your District is 79,742 acres.
Resident Population (1939) 17,020.
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 Census, 5,087.
Number of families and separate occupiers, 1931 Census, 4,920.
Rateable Value, £41,125.
Sum represented by 1d.rate £193 (approximately).

Births: Legitimate, 132 Males, 112 Females. Total 244.
Illegitimate, 5 Males, 7 Females. Total 12.
Stillbirths, 3 Males, 3 Females. Total 6.
Total Births, 256. Birth rate, 14.45 per 1,000.
Total Deaths, 259. Death rate, 14.33 per 1,000.
Stillbirths, rate per 1,000 total births, 23.43.
Percentage of Total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions, 41.69.

Deaths from Puerperal causes: Rate per 1,000 total births.

Puerperal sepsis.....	nil	nil
" causes.....	1	3.84
Total, all causes.....	1	3.84

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. 4 Males, 1 Female.
Per 1,000 births: Legitimate, 19.23. Illegitimate, 0.
Total, 19.23.
Deaths from Measles (all ages). 0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). 0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years). 1.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain as in the Report for 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The general Water Supply of your District is as reported in previous years. The Schemes for the provision of piped water supplies for Harleston and Long Stratton were well on the way towards completion at the end of the year. The sinking of bore-wells to serve certain parishes has been completed. These wells now await the provision of pumps and simple treatment plant, the majority giving water which is very hard and ferruginous. No new public wells have been opened.

23 samples of water have been taken. Eight were found to be contaminated, and one of undesirable quality.

The new sewerage systems under construction during the year at Harleston and Long Stratton have made considerable progress, otherwise the general condition of the District as regards drainage, sanitation and public cleansing is as previously reported.

Inspections under the Public Health and Housing Acts have continued, although the outbreak of war has curtailed the latter. Outbreaks of infectious disease have been investigated, and cowsheds and dairies visited. Sampling of milk produced under "Accredited" Licences has continued. Routine visiting of slaughter-houses, bakehouses, new buildings, etc. has been done, and many nuisances discovered have been remedied after verbal or informal notice.

The District Council have exercised their powers as a Town Planning Interim Development Authority.

New Building Byelaws have been adopted by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936.

The health conditions of the Schools are as before. The increase of the School population due to Evacuation from London and elsewhere has strained accommodation in many places, but no untoward effects on the health of the children have been observed. Two cases of Scarlet Fever, both in the same house, were the only known instances of an infectious disease brought into the District by an evacuee child.

Seventy Accredited Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936-1938 were granted.

186 Samples of Milk were taken for cleanliness test, and 92 for examination for T.B.

Visits were paid to slaughter-houses prior to the Government taking over control of slaughtering. The following were surrendered voluntarily to the Inspector and condemned as unfit for food:

3 Bullocks' heads with tongues (T.B.)
1 Bullock's liver (Fluke)
2 Pigs' heads (T.B.)
1 Pig's carcase with offals (Casualty).

EVACUATION. Between the outbreak of war and the end of the year 1,919 evacuees were received into the District under Government Schemes and by private arrangement and of this number 688 remained on the Register on 31.12.39.

HOUSING. These statistics have been omitted in accordance with the Ministry's instructions.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is issued by the County Laboratory, 29, Thorpe Road, Norwich. Supplies are charged to the Medical Practitioners, but the cost is repaid by the District Council if the patient is unable to pay.

No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have occurred during the year. 35 swabs were examined for Diphtheria and one sputum for Tuberculosis.

No vaccinations were done by the M.O.H.

The following disinfections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector:-

Disinfectants were supplied to 20 houses and Fumigations were carried out for the following infectious diseases: Scarlet Fever 19 cases, Tuberculosis 1, Diphtheria 2.

Eight cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Whooping Cough and Measles have been made notifiable infectious diseases.

There was a widespread epidemic of Influenza during January and February.

Once again I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Bowden for his invaluable assistance to me during the year, and also Mr. Burrows for his co-operation.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for the generous support and friendship you have always extended to me during the twenty-six years I have had the honour of serving you.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT.
M.B.,B.S.,F.R.C.S.E.
Medical Officer of Health.